

Short Biographies SARI Conference 2017

ALEXANDRE-GARNER, Corinne.

Corinne ALEXANDRE-GARNER is a Research Accredited Associate Professor of English at Nanterre University, attached to the Department of Social Sciences and Administration as well as the Department of Anglo-American Studies. She is the Director of the Center for Research on Space and Writing (CREE within CREA, EA 370) and Head of The Lawrence Durrell Research Library. Member of the Board of the Library of Documentation and Contemporary Information since 2011, she sits as an external member of INALCO's Doctoral School. She directs two collections at Nanterre University Press, including the transdisciplinary collection of human sciences called "Meeting Paths" revolving around the themes of otherness, borders, migration and exile. She recently published a literary biography of Lawrence Durrell, *Lawrence Durrell. Dans l'ombre du soleil grec*, in the "Travel with" collection of La Quinzaine Littéraire/ Louis Vuitton. Among her numerous publications devoted to migrant writing feature: "Penser ailleurs" in *Frontières, marges et confins*, C. Alexandre-Garner (ed.), (13-27), Presses universitaires de Paris Ouest, 2008; "When Elsewhere is Home : Mapping Literature as Home in Lawrence Durrell's "Cities, Plains and People"" (with I. Keller-Privat) in *Études britanniques contemporaines*, n°37, December 2009); "Étranges mots étrangers et langue hantée" in *L'étranger dans la langue*, E. Eells, C. Berthin, J.-M. Déprat (eds) Presses universitaires de Paris Ouest, 2013; "Weaving otherness in Shauna Singh Baldwin's "Rawalpindi 1919" and "Toronto 1962": The Text as Transitional Space" in *India in Canada, Canada in India*, A. Navarro Tejero and T. Gupta (eds) Cambridge Scholars' Publishing, 2013; "L'objet migratoire dans *La Grande maison* de Nicole Kraus" in *Multicultures et écrits migratoires*, E. Sabiston (ed.), Toronto, University of York Presses, 2014; "Le récit comme lieu de l'hospitalité" in *Migrations/Translations*, M. Ahmed, C. Alexandre-Garner & al., (eds) Presses universitaires de Paris Ouest, 2015.

BELMEKKI, Belkacem.

Belkacem Belmekki is Professor of British and Commonwealth Studies at the University of Oran. His research focuses mostly on the Muslim community in British India in the nineteenth century. He is currently director of the 'Laboratoire de Langues, Littérature et Civilisation/Histoire en Afrique,' which is a partner of the SARI.

DAHAB, Elizabeth F.

F. Elizabeth Dahab is Professor of Comparative Literature in the Department of Comparative World Literature and Classics at California State University, Long Beach. She has published extensively on the topic of Arab Canadian literature. She published a monograph entitled *Voices of Exile in Contemporary Canadian Francophone Literature* (Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2009/2011). Her edited anthology, *Voices in the Desert; An Anthology of Arabic-Canadian Women Writers*, appeared in Toronto in 2002. She has also published a children's book (Hurly and the Bone) and a translation into English titled *Comparative Literature Today; methods and Perspectives*. She is presently working on a novel and a collection of poems.

F. Elizabeth Dahab earned her Bachelor of Arts from McGill University (Montréal) and her Master's from the University of Alberta (Canada). She received her doctorat de littérature comparée in Comparative Literature from the Université de Paris IV-Sorbonne.

DATTARAY, Debashree.

Debashree Dattaray is Assistant Professor in Comparative Literature and Deputy Coordinator, Centre for Canadian Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. She has been the recipient of a CICOPS Fellowship at University of Pavia, Italy, Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Lecturer Fellowship at UC Berkeley, the Erasmus Mundus Europe Asia Fellowship at the University of Amsterdam and Fulbright Doctoral Fellowship at State University of New York, Stony Brook. Her areas of research and publication are North East Indian Literatures, Indigenous Studies, Narrative Studies, Gender, Folklore, Canadian Studies and Comparative Indian Literature Methodology. She is author of *Oral Traditions of the North East: A Case Study of Karbi Oral Traditions* (2014) and has coedited with Suchorita Chattopadhyay a volume of essays on Indigenous and Diasporic studies entitled *At the Crossroads of Culture and Literature* (2016).

DRAGA ALEXANDRU, Maria-Sabina.

Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru is Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of Bucharest. Her research interests are: contemporary Indian fiction in English and its mythical rewritings, interactions between narrative and performance in contemporary global literatures in English, ethnic American literatures, minority cultures in the media, postcolonialism and postcommunism, gender studies. She has published articles in journals such as *Comparative Literature Studies*, *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, *Perspectives*, *The European Journal of American Culture* etc. and books such as: *The Postmodern Condition: Towards and*

Aesthetic of Cultural Identities (University of Bucharest Press, 2003); *Identity Performance in Contemporary Non-WASP American Fiction* (University of Bucharest Press, 2008); *Between History and Personal Narrative: East-European Women's Stories of Transnational Relocation* (co-edited; Vienna and Berlin: LIT Verlag, 2013); *Performance and Performativity in Contemporary Indian Fiction in English* (Leiden and Boston: Brill Rodopi, 2015). She is currently completing a book on the global outreach of twentieth-century American culture.

GANAPATHY-DORE, Geetha.

Geetha Ganapathy-Doré is a Research Accredited Associate Professor of English at the Faculty of Law, Political and Social Sciences, University of Paris 13, Sorbonne Paris Cité. She is the author of *The Postcolonial Indian Novel* in English (2011). She has coedited several books among which *On the Move, The Journey of Refugees in New Literatures in English* (2012) and *Heritage and Ruptures in Indian Literature, Culture and Cinema* (2017), published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. *Comme la pluie qui tombe sur la terre rouge* is the title of her translation of some ancient Tamil poems published by Po&Psy (2016). Her recent research revolves around India EU relations, Human Rights issues and Postcolonial cinema. She is the current President of SARI.

KOWALSKI, Jean-Marie.

Associate Professor, Université Paris-IV-Sorbonne. Jean-Marie Kowalski wrote a doctoral thesis entitled "Thalassographie, Mesure, Représentation et Description of Maritime Spaces in Ancient Greece," under the joint guidance of Professor Arnaud Zucker (University of Nice) and Professor Christophe Claramunt (Naval School). Since 2007, he has been head of the Department of Humanities at the Brest Naval School. Member of the scientific committee of the "Océanides" project from 2012 to 2013, Jean-Marie Kowalski oversaw the part devoted to ancient history. His fields of research are maritime and naval history and military ethics. He is attached to two research centres (Laboratoire d'histoire et d'archéologie maritimes - FED 4124 (Université Paris IV-Sorbonne) and Centre François Viète - EA1161 (Université de Nantes - UBO) and is currently involved in the PRODRONES pluridisciplinary project (Decision Making Processes related to Maritime Operations). The book entitled *Navigation et géographie dans l'antiquité greco-romaine* (Editions A&J Picard, 2012) and the article "Du héros épique à l'ennemi public : représentations antiques de la figure du pirate" published in the volume *La piraterie au fil de l'histoire : un défi pour l'Etat*, Paris, PUPS, 2014 feature among the numerous publications he has authored.

KRISHNA, Anchitha.

Anchitha Krishna is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, India. Her work focuses on the Discourse of Toxicity, Environmental imagination in the era of Ecological crisis. She has recently been selected for Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship 2017-18 as a visiting scholar in the US.

LAHIRI, Debasish.

Debasish Lahiri teaches English literature at Lal Baba College, under the University of Calcutta.

His writings on Postcolonial theory, Indian, African and Australian Poetry, and European Modernism have been published in international journals and books.

His poems have also been widely published in journals like *The Journal of the Poetry Society of India*, *Muse-India*, *Indian Literature*, *Inkapture* from Durham UK, *The Poetry Salzburg Review*, *Weber: The Contemporary West* etc. His first book of poems *First Will & Testament* was published from Writers Workshop in 2012. His second book of 'travel' poems, *No Waiting like Departure* was published in 2016 from Authors Press, New Delhi.

Lahiri is on the review boards of *Postcolonial Text* and *South Asian Review*. He is on the editorial board of the journal *Gitanjali & Beyond*, published from the Scottish Centre for Tagore Studies. He is also a reviewer and regular contributor to the Life & Letters Column of *The Statesman*, one of India's leading dailies.

He has just published, together with Pradipta Mukherjee, *Tragic Survivals: From the Hellenic to the Postmodern* (Authors Press, 2017).

MEHTA, Brinda.

Brinda J. Mehta is the Germaine Thompson Professor of French and Francophone Studies and Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Mills College in Oakland, California. She is the author of five books: *Dissident Writings of Arab Women: Voices Against Violence* (Routledge, 2014 - Winner of the African Literature Association's 2016 Book of the Year Award for outstanding scholarship in African literary studies); *Notions of Identity, Diaspora and Gender in Caribbean Women's Writing* (Palgrave, 2009); *Rituals of Memory in Contemporary Arab Women's Writing* (Syracuse UP, 2007); *Diasporic (Dis)locations: Indo Caribbean Women Writers Negotiate the Kala Pani* (University Press of the West Indies, 2004 - Winner of the Caribbean Philosophical Association's 2007 Frantz Fanon Award); *Corps infirme, corps infâme: la femme dans le roman*

balzacien (Summa Publications 1992). She has co-edited two volumes on Indo-Caribbean/Afro-Caribbean Thought (*CLR James Journal*) and francophone writings on Indian indenture (*L'esprit créateur*). Mehta has also published over fifty articles on postcolonial African and Caribbean literature and Arab women's writings that have appeared in journals such as, the *South Atlantic Quarterly*, *Meridians*, *Callaloo*, *Research in African Literatures*, among others. Her latest book project focuses on social issues and gender concerns in Indian and Indian diasporic women's narratives.

MOHAN, Anupama.

Anupama Mohan is currently Assistant Professor of English at Presidency University, Kolkata, India. Her area of specialization is Postcolonial Studies, Twentieth-Century South Asian Literatures, History of Ideas, and Critical Theory. Her monograph, *Utopia and the Village in South Asian Studies*, emerged from her doctoral dissertation completed at the University of Toronto, and was published in 2012 by Palgrave Macmillan, U.K. The book has been reviewed widely in the field and was nominated to the MLA First Book Prize in 2013 and to the ICAS Book Prize in 2013. Anupama has published academic book chapters and essays in international peer-reviewed journals such as the *University of Toronto Quarterly*, *Postcolonial Text*, and *Intersections*, among others. Anupama is also a poet and short story writer and her first book of poems, *Twenty Odd Love Poems*, was published in 2008 by the prestigious The Writer's Workshop.

MUKHERJEE, Pradipta.

Pradipta Mukherjee is Assistant Professor of English at Vidyasagar College for Women, Kolkata. She is the sole author of two books: *Shakespeare on the Celluloid: Global Perspectives* (2014), and *Studies in John Fowles's The French Lieutenant's Woman* (2010). She is a member of the Regional Film Selection Board, Doordarshan Kendra Kolkata, Govt. of India. She has published extensively in academic journals specializing in the field of literature and cinema and is engaged in research on Cinema Studies since the last 15 years. An M. Phil. and Ph.D. in English from the University of Calcutta, she is also Visiting Faculty at the Department of English, University of Calcutta and Bethune College, Kolkata. She has co-edited anthologies on Diaspora and Women's Education in India. She has presented her research papers at the University of Amsterdam (2008) and has delivered presentations on Indian Cinema at Brussels, Belgium (2010) and University of London (2013). She has just published, together with Debasish Lahiri, *Tragic Survivals: From the Hellenic to the Postmodern* (Authors Press, 2017).

MULLA, Ahmed.

Ahmed Mulla owns a PhD in postcolonial Anglophone literature from the Université de La Réunion. He gave seminars on new literatures, Indian civilization and postcolonial theory for students of Master's level within the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences of the same university. His dissertation deals with the theme of identity conflicts in the works of Jhumpa Lahiri, and his main research interests have so far concerned questions of gender, identity and diaspora within the works of Amitav Ghosh and Jhumpa Lahiri.

MUND, Subhendu.

Subhendu Mund, a well-known Odia poet, critic, lyricist, translator and lexicographer is also a universally acclaimed scholar in the area of Indian English literature and Odia literature and culture studies. He has published, besides fifty research papers, thirty-two books in Odia, English and in Kannad translation.

Dr Mund is the Chief Editor of the *Indian Journal of World Literature and Culture*, and the Vice-President of the Indian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (since 2008). After forty years of teaching and educational administration, Dr Mund is now an Independent Scholar living in Bhubaneswar (India).

NAUMANN, Michel.

Michel Naumann is presently an Emeritus Professor at the University of Cergy. He is a specialist of African Literatures and History of ideas in India. He has worked in the Congo, the Cameroons, Niger and Nigeria and he has published works on India (*MN Roy* in 2004, *Gandhi* in 2016) and Africa (*Pour une Littérature vouyoue, La décolonisation anglaise*). He founded and chaired the SARI (Société d'Activité et de Recherches sur les mondes Indiens) and he is currently its honorary President.

OUMHANI, Cecile.

A poet and a novelist, Cécile Oumhani was brought up between French and English. She has very strong personal links with Tunisia. She presently lives near Paris, where, after teaching at the University of Paris-Est Créteil as a senior lecturer, she now devotes herself to writing. She is the author of numerous books of poems, including *Young woman at the terrace*, *La nudité des pierres*, published by Al Manar in 2009 and 2013, *Passeurs de rives* published by La Tête à l'Envers in 2015. Her novels include *Le café d'Yllka*, which won the 2009 prix de l'ADELF (Association of Francophone Writers), *Une odeur de henné*, 2012 prix grain de sel, *L'atelier des Strésor*, 2012 special mention of the Franco-Indian Gitanjali prize, *Les racines du mandarinier*. *Tunisian Yankee* was also published by Elyzad and received the prix Afrique méditerranéenne-Maghreb de l'ADELF 2016 last March. It was also nominated for the prix Joseph Kessel 2017. She was awarded the 2014 European francophone Virgil prize for her work as a whole.

She is a member of the editorial board of *Siècle 21*, a journal with a focus on world literature. She is also a member of the editorial committee of *Apulée*. She also collaborates on *Europe*, *La Traductière*, *Caesurae* and *Words Without Borders*.

<https://cecileoumhani.wordpress.com/accueil/>

SANKEY, Ingrid.

Currently teaching History, Geography and Globalization at ESPOL (European School of Political and Social Sciences) attached to the UCL (Université Catholique de Lille), she holds a Ph.D in British civilisation from the University of Lille 3.

Her thesis (defended in 2008) dealt with the issue of Indirect Rule in the Indian Princely States in the heyday of the British Empire. She is currently teaching a course entitled "History, Geography and Globalization" at the ESPOL and history and geography for an international OIB (option internationale du baccalauréat) section at Thérèse d'Avila European High School in Lille.

She has been a member of the SARI (Society for the promotion of Research and Activities on the Indian worlds) since 2008 and contributed to several SARI conferences and publications on India, Africa and Globalization. Her paper entitled "Les princes et le Raj britannique ou les aléas du système d'administration indirecte dans l'Empire des Indes" was published in *Decolonization and the Struggle for National Liberation in India (1909-1971)*, edited by Thierry Di Costanzo and Guillaume Ducoeur, in *Anglo-American Studies* (vol. 48), Peter Lang Edition, 2014.

Her main research topics focus on the analysis of cultural representations and intercultural issues, exoticism, colonial and post-colonial issues, industrial Britain, British society in the 19th century, Global history and geography and Globalization.

SEN, Suddhaseel.

Suddhaseel Sen is Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Bombay in 2017. He obtained his PhD in English from the University of Toronto, and is currently working on a doctorate in musicology on cross-cultural exchanges between Indian and European musicians. Dr. Sen has been a Research Fellow for the *Balzan Research Project, Towards a Global History of Music*, under the directorship of Professor Reinhard Strohm. His publications include essays on Ambroise Thomas's opera *Hamlet*, Vishal Bhardwaj's *Maqbool*, a Bollywood adaptation of Macbeth, and essays on the music of Rabindranath Tagore and Richard Wagner.

SENGUPTA, Bhaskar.

A structural conservator, a professor in a renowned Engineering institute, Head of Department of Environmental studies in Rabindra Bharati University, had numerous publications of international repute, worked in different parts of India and abroad, widely travelled in different parts of globe for conference and research, working on the effects of climate change in the Sundarbans coastal zone.

SENGUPTA, Jayita.

SENGUPTA is currently an independent scholar. Previously, she was Associate Professor of English at the School of Languages and Literature, Sikkim University, India. She was a Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Faculty at the Comparative Literature Department, Stanford University, California, a visiting faculty at the National Kaohsiung Normal University and Soochow University, Taiwan in 2012 and was a British Council Fellow to United Kingdom in 2000. Her research interests include postcolonial studies, gender and psychoanalysis. Her English translation of *Gandharbi, Life of a Musician*, is forthcoming from Orient Blackswan, this year, and her books include *Barbed Wire: Borders and Partitions in South Asia*, Routledge, 2012. She is presently working on a self-funded research project on "History, Memory, Time and Narrative" and her own collection of short stories.

SÖDER, Hans-Peter.

Hans-Peter Söder is an intellectual historian at the department of Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Wayne State University (Detroit, USA). He is member of the executive board of *The International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSEI)* and an advisory editor of *The European Legacy*. He has published widely in the area of technology, philosophy, and culture. His most recent monograph *Metalogicon: Eine Liebeserklärung an die Philosophie* appeared in 2016 and his last article, "Cultural Memory in the Information Age" was published in 2017.

UNDERWOOD, Dhana.

My research deals with the representation of the Indian woman in French-language novels, adventure, love stories, travel narratives and opera-libretti from 1744, in addition to the representation of the Indo-Mauritian woman.

VARGHESE, Donel.

Donel Varghese is a PhD student in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IITB, India. He is mainly interested in the functioning of public sphere and counterpublics, and their relationship with the Syrian Catholic church in Kerala. He has recently submitted his MPhil thesis to the Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad.

VOLNÁ, Ludmila.

Ludmila Volná teaches Indian writing in English at Charles University, Prague. Her interests being the Indian and the Czech literatures and cultures she conducts her research at Université Paris-Est and Université de Rouen. She has two (co-)edited volumes to her credit, *Children of Midnight: Contemporary Indian Novel in English* (Pencraft International 2012) and *Education et Sécularisme : Perspectives africaines et asiatiques* (L'Harmattan Paris 2013), as well as a number of papers published in anthologies and peer-reviewed journals and presented as invited lectures and conference papers in Europe, Asia and America. Member of several academic associations including SARI and the non-India membership representative at IACLALS (Delhi), she is also active on editorial and advisory boards of academic journals.

WEEKS, Joëlle.

Joëlle Weeks is Honorary Associate Professor of English at Université Paris I – Panthéon Sorbonne. She is the author of *Représentations européennes de l'Inde du XVIIe au XIXe siècle* (Harmattan, 2010). She has co-edited *La terre, Question vitale au XXIe siècle* (Harmattan, 2012).

ZAIDI, Nishat.

Nishat Zaidi is Professor in Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Her research interests include postcolonial writings, Indian literatures in English translation, Comparative Literature and Feminist Studies. A scholar, critic and translator, her recent publications include *Story is a Vagabond: Intizar Husain* (Manoa special issue co-edited with Frank Stewart, Alok Bhalla and Asif Farrukhi; reprinted by Oxford University Press Pakistan), *Makers of Indian Literature: Agha Shahid Ali* (Sahitya Akademi, 2014), *Between Worlds: The Travels of Yusuf Kambalposh* (OUP, 2014 with Mushirul Hasan), *Pencil and Other Poems* (Translation published by Sahitya Akademi, 2014), *A Voyage to Modernism: Syed Ahmed Khan* (Primus, 2011; co-author: Mushirul Hasan), *Makers of Indian Literature: Makhdoom Muhiuddin* (Sahitya Akademi, 2009), and *Ghalib Aur Unka Yug* (Sahitya Akademi, 2008).